Carl Pettersch (’28) was the first of his family to seek a university education, and education was to become his life’s work.

Carl met his wife, Clarissa, during the Great Depression. As a kindergarten teacher, she immediately recognized his potential as an educator. He obtained his teaching certificate from the University of Detroit; his first job was in tiny Edmore, Michigan, teaching history, Latin, English literature, and political science. He went on to earn his doctor of education degree from Columbia University and to serve as dean of graduate studies at West Connecticut State. He retired in 1972 and returned to Grand Rapids, the couple’s hometown. There, he co-founded Emeritus College at Aquinas College in Grand Rapids and produced a series of more than 200 radio broadcasts for listeners in western Michigan.

Clarissa died in 1991. Later, Carl married Louise, the widow of his Notre Dame roommate, Louis Buckley. In 1998, at the age of 92, Carl passed away, four months prior to Louise.

Critical technologies — those areas of inquiry that are in vigorous stages of development and have the potential to significantly affect economic growth, the environment, health care, transportation, information transfer, energy utilization, etc. — change with time, and new journals, technical reports, and databases continuously evolve to meet the needs of engineers, scientists, and scholars working with them. The Pettersch Endowment helps the Hesburgh Libraries to bring state-of-the-art resources to those in the Notre Dame community who work on issues that change lives for the better throughout the world.